

REMARKS

Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10-13, 15, 18-29, 31, 33, 35-45, 47, and 48 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, 47, and 48 have been amended herein.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10-13 and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims independent claims 1 and 47 to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the claim term "sample separation system."

Claims 23-29, 31, 33, 35-38, and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse. Nevertheless to facilitate prosecution and allowance of the pending claims, Applicants have amended independent claims 23 and 48 to recite that the filter material has a pore size "from about 0.2 microns to approximately 1.2 microns." These amendments do not add new matter since, as the Examiner pointed out, support for this feature can be found in the originally-filed specification at page 11, lines 11-20.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-referenced amendments place the claims in condition for allowance, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action dated January 24, 2008 on page 4.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Further, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known for at least the specific and particular reason that the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

Respectfully submitted,



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